

WHAT IS EDR?

The primary purpose of an EDR system is to enable the participants of death registration to file death records with local and state registrars electronically. EDR provides for on-line access so that decedent fact-of-death and cause-of-death information can be registered electronically by multiple death registration participants working on the same case. With an EDR system, the ability to report cause-of-death with increased accuracy and timeliness can be an integral part of patient care and will also improve cause-of-death data for disease surveillance systems.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) represents all health statistics and vital records agencies in the United States.

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WHAT HOSPITALS AND PHYSICIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ELECTRONIC DEATH REGISTRATION



ELECTRONIC DEATH REGISTRATION (EDR) SYSTEM POTENTIAL BENEFITS



- Provides for paperless filing of a death record
- Facilitates on-line collaboration among multiple death registration system users, including funeral homes, hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, medical examiners and coroners, and local and state registrars
- Supports the completion and filing of a death record that is partially an electronic record and partially a paper certificate if all participants are not on-line
- Improves the timeliness and quality of cause-of-death reporting
- Saves time and effort by enabling death certificate completion electronically
- Reduces errors in and rejection of death certificates
- Promotes uniformity in cause-of-death statistics
- Includes instructions for filling out the cause-of-death
- Improves cause-of-death data provided to electronic disease surveillance systems
- Enables faster death registration at the Vital Records Office, which will speed turnaround time for obtaining certified copies for families
- Improves fraud prevention by using electronic authentication
- Automates the referral to the medical examiner and/or coroner for possible medical examiner cases
- Allows for electronic cremation approval
- Provides for electronic submission of supplemental cause-of-death information for pending investigations by the medical examiner and/or coroner

EDR SYSTEM FEATURES

- User-friendly death record data entry screens
- Highly secure and Internet-accessible
- Available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Accommodates hospitals, nursing homes, private physician practices, medical examiners, and coroners
- On-line help and instructions built into the system
- Help desk support

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA) RESOLUTION

In 2002, the AMA House of Delegates adopted a resolution sponsored by the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) related to improving the reporting of cause-of-death. This resolution calls for the following four measures:

1. Emphasize to the medical community that precise cause-of-death reporting is critical
2. Work with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), as well as state medical associations, to ensure use of uniform cause-of-death terminology
3. Educate state legislators on the importance of uniformity in mortality statistics so research dollars may be appropriately disbursed
4. Train physicians in medical schools, residency programs and continuing medical education courses on how to fill out a death certificate. This may require AMA to partner with the Association of American Medical Colleges to create a death certificate curriculum